

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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12

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00

EB-11 FMC-04 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CG-00 COA-02

DLOS-07 SWF-02 DRC-01 /074 W  
----- 073923

R 020210Z AUG 74

FM AMCONSUL SYDNEY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5634

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMCONSUL AUCKLAND

UNCLAS SYDNEY 1621

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, BEXP, ETRD, PFOR, AS

SUBJ: PORT CONGESTION SURCHARGE

REF: SYDNEY 1433 AND PREVIOUS

1. IT WAS ANNOUNCED TODAY THE PACIFIC COAST-AUSTRALASIA CONFERENCE WOULD IMPOSE A US DOLS 14 PER TON SURCHARGE FOR ALL GOODS SHIPPED TO SYDNEY FROM THE U.S. PACIFIC COAST EFFECTIVE 17 AUGUST 1974. A SURCHARGE OF US DOLS 19 PER TON WOULD BE IMPOSED ON FREIGHT TO WELLINGTON AND AUCKLAND. THE SURCHARGE, ANNOUNCED TO BE EFFECTIVE 22 APRIL 1974 AND POSTPONED TO 1 OCTOBER 1974, WAS MOVED BACK TO 17 AUGUST 1974 BECAUSE OF CONTINUING DELAYS IN DISCHARGE AND UNLOADING OF CARGO AT SYDNEY, WELLINGTON AND AUCKLAND.

2. THE ATLANTIC-GULF-AUSTRALIA-NEW ZEALAND CONFERENCE ANNOUNCED ITS POSTPONEMENT OF THE PROPOSED US DOLS 11.50 SURCHARGE ON CARGO DESTINED FROM EAST COAST US PORTS TO SYDNEY TO 31 AUGUST 1974 HAD NOT BEEN CHANGED EXCEPT THAT IT WILL BE IMPOSED AS OF THAT DATE AND NOT UNCLASSIFIED

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POSTPONED AGAIN.

3. THE UNITED KINGDOM-EUROPE-AUSTRALIA CONFERENCE IMPOSED A 6 AND ONE HALF PERCENT TARIFF SURCHARGE EFFECTIVE 18 JULY 1974 TO SYDNEY BOUND CARGO. THIS WAS IMPOSED WITHOUT NOTIFICATION OR CONSULTATION WITH SYDNEY PORT AUTHORITIES OR THE NEW SOUTH WALES GOVERNMENT.

4. DELAYS IN TURN AROUND TIME FOR VESSELS AT SYDNEY CONTINUE TO HAMPER SHIP OWNERS. THE GLEBE ISLAND CONTAINER DEPOT IS IN THE PROCESS OF BEING LEASED TO A CONSORTIUM WITH A LARGE US INTEREST (SEE SYDNEY 1433) AND AN ADDITIONAL ROLL-ON/ROLL-OFF WHARF HAS JUST BEEN OPENED BY THE PORT AUTHORITY WHICH IN THE LONG TERM SHOULD HELP ALLEVIATE CONGESTION AT SYDNEY AND WAS THE BASIS FOR POST RECOMMENDATION TO FMC TO POSTPONE APPROVAL OF ALL SURCHARGES FOR AN INDEFINITE PERIOD. (SEE SYDNEY 0634 AND SYDNEY 0635).

5. POST COMMENT:  
THE PORT OF SYDNEY HAS HAD SERIOUS CONGESTION PROBLEMS CAUSED BY LABOR PROBLEMS, AN INCREASE OF CARGO DUE TO LOWER TARIFFS AND INEFFICIENCIES OF PORT OPERATION FOR MOST OF THIS YEAR. ONE SHIPPING LINE SAID THE IMPOSITION OF SURCHARGES WAS PUT ON AT THIS TIME TO HELP "RECOUP MONEY THEY HAVE LOST" AND BECAUSE THEY EXPECT THE SYDNEY PORT SITUATION TO CONTINUE FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE YEAR.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PORT CONGESTION, PORT CHARGES, PORT FACILITIES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 02 AUG 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Subject:** PORT CONGESTION SURCHARGE  
**TAGS:** ETRN, BEXP, ETRD, PFOR, AS  
**To:** STATE  
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